

necessary. While the Society thus furnishes the legal assistance and court costs, this does not mean that it undertakes to pay any judgment secured against a member.

A member in good standing, whose dues are fully paid, may also, at his option, join the Indemnity Defense Fund. As to such claims or suits arising out of his practice for services thereafter rendered by him, he is entitled to the protection of the fund as well, as defined by its rules, termed Coverage Rules. This coverage on a single claim is \$5,000, depending on the extent of the Fund and the priority of the claim.

Any member may also, at his option, secure insurance from as many insurance companies as he desires. A member not belonging to the Fund, but insured in one or more companies, must, if a claim is made or suit filed against him, elect whether his insurance company or the Society shall handle his defense. In such cases, the Society can give only general cooperation.

But, if a member is covered by the Fund, and is also insured, the Legal Department will actively handle the claim or case and participate in his defense with the attorneys for the insurance company.

We have no hesitancy in recommending all our members to join the Fund and to carry as well, at least one policy of insurance with an established insurance company.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

An entertaining and vastly instructive booklet is published by Dr. Lulu Hunt Peters of Los Angeles under the suggestive caption, "Diet and Health, with Key to the Calories." It would be worth while for every doctor to have a copy, even though the booklet is designed for lay consumption. The attention of the obese is secured on the first page by the declaration that "in war time it is a crime to hoard food,—yet hundreds of thousands are hoarding food, and that one of the most precious of all foods. They have vast amounts of this valuable commodity stored away in their own anatomy."

The point is well taken and it ought to be considered a patriotic disgrace in these war times for any individual to exhibit or harbor undue embonpoint. While we doctors are thus preaching, let us turn a timely eye toward our own proportions. For charity begins at home and so should patriotism. Physical efficiency is a patriotic duty for men and women alike. Obesity is *lèse majesté*. Let us be patriotically thin. And read Dr. Peters' booklet.

Continuing, the author gives some excellent definitions, after this fashion. "Medical Trust,—The A. M. A., a powerful trust you can't get into unless you have a high preliminary education and are a graduate of a high-class medical college. Eleven years' training after the grammar school is their minimum standard now." "League for Medical Freedom,—In reality a league for medical ignorance. The opponent of the above-mentioned trust. Their standard,—any old kind of medical or religious training three months or longer, engrafted on any one who has the money to pay for the course. No education no barrier; in fact, these

make the loudest boosters for the league. In justice I must say that many splendid estimable people belong to this, not knowing these facts."

The medical profession of Great Britain, as a result of five years' experience, has expressed its approval of universal health insurance. A comprehensive inquiry has been conducted by a committee of the British Medical Association among all local branches and panel committees. Its report on the attitude of the physicians says: "The degree of unanimity so far disclosed is somewhat remarkable." This indicates a significant change of view on the part of the profession as a whole, since at the outset health insurance was "the most highly controversial subject that has ever been before the profession." The investigation shows that the Act is to-day regarded as a distinct gain to the profession as well as to the public health.

In the last annual report of the Secretary of the Interior, the Honorable Franklin K. Lane, occur these words: "The spirit of the people is the making of the nation. The extent to which a people can co-operate marks the point of civilization they have reached. The greatest outstanding fact of the past year is that under the crystallizing influence of a common danger and under the inspiring impulse of a common purpose, Americans are quick to come together." A sentiment surely worthy of all emulation among physicians, whose constant contention it should be, who best can serve and best agree.

The Publication Committee of the JOURNAL is glad to announce that the congestion of manuscripts on hand has been relieved and all papers submitted for publication will be considered on their intrinsic merits.

According to the figures of the last available census, that of 1910, New York's foreign born population numbered almost two millions. Of these, Russia contributed 483,580; Italy, 340,524; Germany, 279,242; Ireland, 252,528; Austria, 193,203; and other countries considerably less. According to the New York Department of Health, it thus appears that New York's Russian-born population makes a city nearly as large as Odessa; its Italian members are enough to populate Trieste and Venice combined; and its German constituency is larger than that of the city of Bremen. About one million of the population are Jewish.

It is important to remember that, while typhoid fever is a sanitary crime, it frequently devolves upon the physician to treat it, and the physician is responsible for doing his part to prevent its further spread. Home treatment is always undesirable and should only be permitted when hospital facilities are unavailable. Visitors should be excluded, stools and urine efficiently disinfected, and every member of the family and person in contact with the case, who has not had typhoid, should be vaccinated against it. Urine and feces should invariably be examined bacteriologically not later than the tenth day after normal temperature is established. This is of the utmost importance in order to control the carrier problem.